REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

This amendment replaces the unentered amendment of August 30, 2004. The August 30th amendment should remain unentered. It is requested that the $86 debited for the extra independent claim (in the August 30th amendment) be credited back to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

Claims 7-12 have been cancelled, to be made the subject of a divisional application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 1-6 have been allowed and that claim 13 is directed to allowable subject matter (apart from formal matters).

Claim 13 has been amended to be in independent form including the recitations of claims 10 and 12. Allowance of claim 13 is solicited.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is solicited.

The subject matter taken from claim 10 has been amended to change "switching format" to "format".

As to the claim 10 recitation of "indexing the user data destination information...", as an initial matter, the output index information in a header field 41 of an internal cell 40 of

the invention is converted from a destination information in a header field of the IP packet or the ATM cell. See Figure 3.

It is true that an index search section 12 conducts an indexing search in the output port conversion table 13 (specification page 4, lines 9-14). See below that the header field 41 is used in this indexing search, where the output index information in header field 41 is used to index (map) that output index information to specific output ports by reference to table 13. See Figure 5 and Figure 7. Figure 7 uses the "output index information" phase.

See that table 13 stores multiple index information and multiple output port number information in a one-to-one basis for unicast and one-to-multiple basis for multicast for indexing the output index information from the header field 41 (left edge of the table shown in Figure 5) to specific output port numbers (top edge of the table shown in Figure 5).

See that the results from the referral to the table 13 is input to destination based distribution section 16, section 16 controlling the gate selection block 15 (lines 17-18).

With reference to the paragraph spanning pages 4-5 of the specification, together with Figure 3, see that the internal cell 40 comprises a header field 41 and a data field 42. See the disclosure that the header field 41 stores destination information (e.g., VPI/VCI identification) converted for

switching inside the unit, i.e., to the recited output index information.

The header field 41 (comprising the output index information, e.g., 001_H-FFF_H) is sent to the search section 12 while the entire cell 40 is sent to the timing generating section 14. The index search section receives output port number(s) from the table 13 (step 16 and shown in Figure 5). This indexes the internal cell to one of the output ports in the case of unicast and to plural of the output ports in the case of multicast.

See page 6, lines 18-27 (where memory 13B corresponds to table 13 of Figure 1) disclosing "the output index information to be extracted [from the header field 41] by a memory reading control circuit 12B to function as the index search section 12 corresponds to an address of the memory 13B, and the output port number corresponds to data to be written in each address of the memory 13B. ... The output port number is stored in the form of bit pattern so as to facilitate the control of the gate section 15B."

See the first two full paragraphs on page 7 detailing the memory reading control circuit reading the header field of the internal cell to extract the output index information from the header field and then conduct the read operation of memory 13B to obtain specific output port values.

There is similar discussion concerning the second embodiment of Figures 6-7.

In view of the above, it is believed to be accurate to say that the output index information **indexes** the user data destination information to data output ports by being used to search/extract the output port conversion table/memory. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection are solicited.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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